

Sarah Acosta, RD, is the Health & Wellness Coordinator in Human Resources & Risk Management Department for Harris County. She organizes health events and activities for employees and educates on available wellness services.

Sarah is a Registered Dietitian with a background in public health. She holds a B.S. in Food & Nutrition/Dietetics from Texas Tech University.

Jay R. Aldis is a partner in the Houston office of the law firm Bracewell & Giuliani, LLP. He is Board Certified in Labor and Employment Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Mr. Aldis has been recognized as a Texas Rising Star, Labor and Employment Law, by Texas Monthly Magazine in 2005.

Mr. Aldis' practice focuses on the representation of employers in all aspects of labor and employment law. He has litigated dozens of employment and civil rights lawsuits filed against employers, including claims of age, disability and race discrimination, as well as sexual harassment and retaliation.

Prior to joining Bracewell, Mr. Aldis served as the Deputy Division Chief of the Labor and Employment Division of the Harris County Attorneys Office.

Eileen Begle is a Senior Assistant County Attorney in the office of Harris County Attorney Mike Stafford. She represents elected and appointed officials and human resource professionals throughout the county in all aspects of the employee-employer relationship.

Ms. Begle has been with Harris County for sixteen years. She is Board Certified in Labor and Employment Law by the Texas Board of Legal Specializations.

Bob Brady, M.S., is a Senior Trainer and Consultant for The Facet Group and has over 25 years of experience in the field of Human Resource Management. Bob has worked successfully with a diverse segment of organizational structures and cultures. His industry background includes engineering, industrial service, environmental, manufacturing, distribution, high-tech, and energy.

Bob's human resource and training expertise encompasses performance counseling, employee survey and assessment, succession planning, performance coaching, goal setting, recruiting, outplacement, team building, compliance training and effective employee communication programs. In addition, he has extensive experience in merger and acquisition management.

As a strategic business partner, Bob has provided leadership to organizations which has enabled them to maximize return on their human capital investment.

Bob holds a B. S. in Engineering from California State University, an M. S. degree in Materials Engineering from California State University. He is a member of the Human Resource Management Association.

Robert Bush has been the Safety Administrator for the Flood Control District, since March of 2006. He is a certified Occupational Health and Safety Technologist with over 15 years experience in the safety field.

Vicki Cash worked in the medical, real estate and legal fields before joining the Harris County Auditor's Office in January, 2000. She began processing Harris County Travel Authorization Forms for Accounts Payable in 2006. Ms. Cash attended Baylor University and Lamar University.

Amy P. Castro is President of Innovative Communication & Training Solutions. She has more than 18 years experience in communication and training for federal and local government, corporations, small businesses and higher education. She is recognized for her abilities in the areas of oral and written communication, public relations, interpersonal relationships and business communication. Her experience leads to results oriented, energetic, and “user friendly” training, coaching and consulting interventions. Her interventions achieve results because they help individuals and teams improve overall communication skills, enhancing their performance and career satisfaction. She also attributes the success of her interventions to the keen rapport developed with the employees and managers at every level in the organizations she serves.

Debi Ferraro has been with the Harris County Auditor's Office Accounts Payable department for 25 years. She has been an Accounts Payable supervisor since 1987.

Susanne Gaddis, Ph.D, known as “the Communications Doctor” recognizes there is an epidemic of unhealthy interactions in today’s society. The good news is – she shares prescriptions – easy and engaging tips and techniques that help foster a climate for positive, diplomatic and motivational communications. As a communications professor, motivational speaker, author and member of the National Speaker’s Association, Susanne Gaddis, PhD, has taught the art of successful communication since 1989. A recognized interpersonal communications expert, Susanne has appeared on nationally syndicated radio, TV and video programming and has authored articles appearing in: *The Journal of Training and Development*, *The Whole American Nurse*, *The Healthcare*

Career Guide, Shape Magazine, The Handbook of Public Relations, Corporate Meeting Planner, Quick and Simple Magazine, and on Microsoft's Small Business Online.

Marva Gay is the Deputy Division Chief of the General Counsel Division of the office of Harris County Attorney Mike Stafford. She has been with Harris County for thirteen years. She is licensed to practice law in Texas, Florida, and Kentucky and has a background in federal HIPAA laws on privacy of medical records and health care law issues.

Joshua Glover is an Industrial Liaison with the Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management. Prior to joining OEM, Joshua was the Safety Coordinator for Facilities & Property Management. Mr. Glover also served in emergency services for seven years as a medic, firefighter, and EMT / CPR Instructor.

Mr. Glover holds a BS in Sociology from Texas A&M University with a minor in Business Administration. Joshua is certified by the State of Texas as an Emergency Medical Technician and EMS Instructor and by the National Safety Council in Principles of Safety.

Oscar Gutierrez, CPA, has been a licensed CPA in the State of Texas since 1982.

Mr. Gutierrez is dedicated to sharing personal financial education with individuals, families and business owners who are serious about reaching financial independence.

Elaine Hermesen has been an employee of the Social Security Administration for almost 34 years. During her career, she has worked in all technical positions in the field office. She has worked in 11 Social Security offices throughout the southeastern United States. Prior to becoming a Public Affairs Specialist, she was an Operations Supervisor.

Ronnie James has been with the Harris County Auditor's Office since August 1995. Mr. James spent twenty-five years in the oil and gas industry as the Manager of Billings and Accounts Payable, for BJ Services and Transco Company.

Russ Jenkins is a nationally certified personal trainer who holds various group fitness certifications. He presents group exercise classes in the Houston area and has presented master exercise classes in Spain and Germany.

Frances Johnson received a Bachelor's Degree in Dietetics from Washington State University and a Master's Degree in Applied Psychology from Houston Baptist University. She is a Registered and Licensed Dietitian and currently works as the Chronic Disease Prevention Coordinator with Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services.

Tim Krause is an Employer Services Representative for TCDRS. He travels the state talking to members and governing boards about their retirement plans. He received his undergraduate degree in Communications from then Corpus Christi State University (now Texas A&M University at Corpus Christi) and also earned an MBA from Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio.

Dr. Richard Lewis, Jr., Ph.D. is an Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Texas at San Antonio. His academic specialties include the areas of diversity management, organizational change, inter-group relationships, and social science research. He headed up the City of San Antonio's Recruitment and Selection efforts from 1985 to 1988. Dr. Lewis has taught at Texas A&M University, Our Lady of the Lake University, and St. Philip's College. He is President of Round Top Consulting Associates, a firm he founded in 1990 which provides social science research and seminar facilitation.

Dr. Lewis has been involved in numerous civic activities. He is a former board member on the United Way Board of Directors and the Live Oak Economic Development Corporation. In addition, Dr. Lewis has served on the VIA Metropolitan Transit Authority Board of Trustees and the Bexar County Housing Authority.

Dr. Lewis received his undergraduate degree from Texas Tech University in 1976. He received his Master's and Doctoral degrees in Sociology from Texas A&M University in 1978 and 1981, respectively.

Franco Minor graduated from Texas Southern University with a degree in Healthcare Administration. Prior to joining Diabetes America, he worked in the human resources, hospital and home health sectors in recruitment, case management and business development here in Houston. As a result of his diverse expertise in these areas and because he has friends with Diabetes, he was compelled to join Diabetes America. Now, he delights in being able to share critical information with individuals who have diabetes and/or those who might have diabetic symptoms.

Marsha H. Mitchell is the Human Resources & Training Manager for Harris County Public Library (HCPL). Prior to joining HCPL in September 2002, she worked in Corporate America for over twenty years in various capacities. Ms. Mitchell conducts numerous courses and seminars on topics such as Customer Service, Presentation Skills, Communication Skills, Conflict Resolution, Interviewing Skills, Negotiation Skills, Effective Performance Appraisals and Managing Diversity. In her last corporate position as Diversity Manager and Corporate Trainer, she conducted training in Canada, South America, Europe, Asia and Africa. Ms. Mitchell holds a B.A. in Accounting from Dillard University in New Orleans, LA and an M.B.A. in Finance from University of St. Thomas in Houston, TX. She is also certified in Training & Development through the American Society for Training & Development (ASTD). Ms. Mitchell is currently pursuing the Senior Professional in Human Resource Management Certification (SPHR) through the Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM).

Tawnya Mitchell, Senior Training Specialist, tmm consulting, holds a B.S. in Education from the University of Texas. She has had almost 2 decades of experience as an educator and vocational coordinator. She began facilitating adult training courses in 2003 as a contract consultant. In 2006, Tawnya launched her own consulting firm, tmm consulting.

She has designed and implemented curriculum for improving business communications, improving customer relationships, professional image, time management and organizational strategies. She has been a training resource for several public entities: Cy Fair ISD, Fort Bend ISD, Harris County Human Resources & Risk Management, Harris County Sheriff's Office, and Harris County Flood Control District. Tawnya has also conducted trainings for the corporate world, working with companies like FMC, and Veritas DGC.

Her philosophy of learning is simple – make information relevant, make the atmosphere safe and fun, learning will occur.

When Tawnya is not speaking to groups or facilitating learning, she enjoys quality time spent at home and traveling with her husband and her two teenage sons.

Dr. Walter E. Natemeyer is President of North American Training and Development, Inc. He is a leading authority on "Situational Leadership," employee motivation, strategic planning and team building.

Dr. Natemeyer was a management professor at Ohio University, the University of Houston and University of Houston-Clear Lake. He also served as Director of the NASA-Johnson Space Center Management Program from 1976 to 1981. He

received his BBA and MBA degree from Ohio University and his PhD in Organizational Behavior from the University of Houston.

Brenda Neleigh is a Registered Dietitian and Certified Diabetes Educator with Diabetes America. She graduated from the University of Missouri with a degree in Food Systems Management. In the last few years she has worked as a diabetes educator and dietitian in the Dallas area. Brenda recently moved to the Houston area and began working with Diabetes America, a group of Health Centers that provides comprehensive diabetes care. She likes empowering people with diabetes by giving them useful information so they know how to manage their diabetes. That includes asking them about their lifestyle habits and customizing their management plan accordingly. Brenda is the proud mom of Georgie, a terrier mix, and enjoys various “crafting” hobbies.

Erika Owens is a training coordinator with Harris County Human Resources & Risk Management. She interfaces with departmental management and employees to research/investigate TWC claims, schedule Sign Language Interpreter/Auxiliary Aids, and other employee relations issues. Ms. Owens is the coordinator for all new employee orientation sessions and for quarterly retirement seminars. She holds a B.S. in Management from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. Ms. Owens is currently pursuing the Professional in Human Resource Management Certification (PHR) through the Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM).

Christy Pospisil has over seven years experience as a Registered and Licensed Dietitian. Upon graduating from the University of Missouri, she moved to Houston to begin her career. Christy has experience in pediatric and maternal nutrition, cardiovascular wellness, diabetes, and obesity research and weight management programs. Combining certifications in diabetes education and adult weight management have helped her to empower patients to make lifestyle changes and to meet their weight loss goals.

Special areas of interest and highlights of her career include working with Central Market to conduct grocery store tours and cooking classes, presenting wellness workshops to area corporations and churches, and working with the media to promote healthy eating.

Christy enjoys spending time with her husband, reading and exercising with the family pet, Bogey.

Jeffrey G. Power, M.A., M.S. is a Workshop Designer, Trainer, Psychotherapist, and Business Consulting Professional. He has been providing

Organizational/Management/Human Resources (HR) Consultation and Training to private, public, and non-profit organizations for the past 18 years

He received his BA in Psychology and Education from Davis and Elkins College in Elkins, WV. He earned a MS in Counseling and Guidance with emphasis on group dynamics and a MA in Family Relations and Adolescent Development with emphasis on Communication Systems from West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV.

Linda K. Snook, based in Houston, Texas, serves Magellan as a Senior Account Executive, having full responsibility to ensure quality service for customer accounts, renewals, upgrades, and new account implementation. Ms. Snook has worked in the EAP and behavioral health industry in Texas for the past 20 years and has been on the Magellan team for 14 years. She brings a sound understanding of the ever-changing needs of current work environments and has been successful in formulating resolutions for diverse workplace circumstances. She is also skilled at collaborating with customers' internal EAP representatives.

Ms. Snook has over 20 years of experience providing clinical services in varied clinical settings, including inpatient, day hospital and out patient treatment organizations. Ms. Snook has earned the Certified Employee Assistance Professional (CEAP) certification and worked in that capacity for area businesses for many years, prior to joining Magellan.

Tijuana Smith worked in various fields (Banking, Retail Foods) before joining the Harris County Auditor's Office, January 2005. She began processing Harris County Travel and Procurement cards for Accounts Payable in 2006. She attended University of Houston and has a BS in Psychology.

Detra Stewart – biography not currently available.

Pat Stokes has been with the Harris County Auditor's Office Accounts Payable department since March 1976. She started in Accounts Payable as a Claims Processor and has been an Accounts Payable Supervisor since 1980.

Robin Vincent works in Benefits Administration in the Office of Human Resources and Risk Management (HR&RM) with Harris County. She is responsible for administering health and related benefits for the county's 14,000 employees and 3,500 retirees. Ms. Vincent has been with Harris County for eighteen years, beginning her career with the Purchasing Department. She has held various positions with HR & RM, including Property & Casualty Insurance Supervisor. She has served as President of the Public Risk

Management Association Board of Directors. Ms. Vincent earned an Associate degree in Risk Management designation from the Insurance Institute of America. She is working towards earning the Certified Employee Benefits Specialist designation.

Dr. Tom Watson is president of Watson Training & Development, Inc., a corporate training company headquartered in Longview, Texas, with offices on Guam. His company provides training in leadership, customer service, communication and financial literacy/wellness. Some of the organizations he has worked with include City of Houston, Exxon/Mobil, Eastman Chemical Company, Xerox, UPS, Citibank, Methodist Healthcare System, to name a few.

Dr. Watson has presented his financial education workshop (Invest in Your Debt) at Harris County for over five years, and is a major contributor to the annual Finance Fair. He believes a debt free employee is a happier and much more productive employee, both at work and at home. Dr. Watson is the author of the popular book, *The Great American Debt Opportunity: Turn Your Debt into Wealth*.